REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Abecassis (U.S. Patent 6,553,178).

Claims 3 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Abecassis in view of Yuen et al (U.S. Patent 6,091,884) and further in view of Choi (U.S. Patent 5,519,549).

These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim Rejections

As an initial matter, Applicant notes that the Examiner has withdrawn his previous rejections of claims 1-5 based upon Abecassis (U.S. Patent 6,408,128), but has now substituted Abecassis (U.S. Patent 6,553,178).

Present Disclosure

The present disclosure relates to a tape player as shown, for example, in Fig. 1, in which playback is controlled according to program ratings. In one embodiment shown in Fig. 2, a user sets a viewable program rating (step 201). A program rating is detected from a video signal to be reproduced (step 202) and is compared to the program rating set by a user (step 203). If the set rating is equal to or higher then the detected rating, a normal playback is executed (step 208). If the set rating is lower, then the detected rating the system controller prevents the video signal

from being output to the display unit (step 204) and causes a tape to run at high speed (step 205) until the next program recorded on the tape is reached (step 206), at which time a general playback mode is executed (step 207). Thus, when a program is recorded which has a rating indicating the present user is not authorized to view the program, viewing of the program is blocked and the tape and proceeds and fast forward until the next program is reached.

<u>Abecassis '178</u>

Abecassis '178 relates to a random access pointcast video delivery system which provides the viewer flexibility with respect to video content. It is an object of Abecassis to deliver to a viewer an automatically customized version of a single addition of the viewer-selected video responsive to the viewer's content preferences to the level of detail and explicitness in range of content categories.

For example, a video may be divided into various segments, with some or all of the segments having different versions. The versions can differ, for example, according to the degree of profanity or violence or nudity or sex contained within the versions. A viewer may preselect a level of profanity, violence, nudity, or sex, etc., which is acceptable for him or her. The system of Abecassis can then present to the viewer a video having the segments selected according to the user's preferences.

Examples of segment selection are shown in Figs. 1A and 1B. A video map of a content-on-demand video is constructed as shown, for example, in Figs. 3A-3D. Fig. 3A illustrates an example of a conventional motion picture program 301 in which the scenes 302 of the video are arraigned as a unique sequential arrangement of frames 304.

In more detail, in a content-on-demand video, the various scenes or chapters 302 of the video are divided into appropriate segments 303 according to an evaluation of the contents of the scenes or chapters. Each segment 303 is defined by a beginning and ending frame and comprises any number of frames 304. In this example, scene 3 is divided into four segments in which segment 3*ii* begins at frame 4112 and ends at frame 6026. The next segment, 3*iii*, begins at frame 6027. Segment 3*ii*, which in a conventional motion picture contributes to an "R" rating for the video, includes frames depicting explicit bloodshed. The content code of segment 3*ii* is indicated by the numeral 3 in the cell 319 of an appropriate descriptive structure.

Referring now to Fig. 3B, to provide for the option of editing out the explicit bloodshed in a content-on-demand video, the video segment map includes an additional segment definition 321 beginning at frame 4112 and ending at frame 5205. The end of this segment 321 is linked to a new transitional segment 322, beginning at frame 35205 and ending at 35350, the end of which is linked to frame 6027. In this fashion, frames are omitted and added to provide a continuous transparent edited version of any segment of the scene. This frame sequence 321/322 is associated with a corresponding content code 329 to indicate the absence of bloodshed.

In an entire content-on-demand video, different versions of different segments are provided on a random access memory in order to allow for construction of the video-on-demand content from a multiplicity of segments which may be chosen to construct the content "Fig. 3D is illustrated to diagrammatically emphasize the resulting sequential and non-sequential random-like arrangement of video segments in a content-on-demand video. This is shown, for example,

in the segment definition 331/333/332 depicting explicit bloodshed and the corresponding non-sequential frame sequence 342." Col. 11, lines 21-27.

"A video segment map then is the combination of the various segment definitions in a video. In the above example, the video map would provide the following information: 4112-5109"35351-38975:5175-6026, 135-4, 6027; 4112-6026, 135-3, 6027; 4112-5205:35205-35350, 135-1, 6027. This map would enable, for example, to automatically retrieve the segment defined by frames 4112-5109, followed by segment defined by frames 353514-38975, and followed by the segment defined by frames 5175-6026 in response to a viewer's preference for a graphic level of violence (135-4)." Col. 11, lines 27-37.

In order to provide the ability to construct the content of this sequential and non-sequential random-like arrangement of video segments, a viewer's random access video technologies device ("RAViT") is provided to permit the viewer to retrieve content-on-demand videos and other services for media locally accessible or within the RAViT, or from a remote video services provider (col. 18, lines 33-38). Referring to Fig. 5, the "RAViT's video random access retrieval architecture principally comprising the video/data disk module 501, video CPU 513, video buffers 514 and processing capabilities, provides for the retrieval and transmission of selected sequential and non-sequential video segments stored in the video disk." (Col. 23, lines 44-49). Fig. 6A shows an example of a laser-based random access multiple read/write units architecture in which non-sequential video segments are read from a single source seamlessly.

8

<u>Analysis</u>

The present disclosure is different from Abecassis at least in that the present disclosure relates to a linear playback system which plays back content in the sequence in which it was recorded on a recording medium such as a VCR tape, while Abecassis relates to a random access video system which can playback video segments regardless of the order on which they are stored in the recording medium.

In rejecting claim 1, the Examiner states that Abecassis discloses, among other things, "a tape speed controller for executing a high speed search mode when the controller generates the first control signal and for executing the general playback mode when the controller generates the second control signal (see col. 28, lines 22-55). Office Action, page 3, lines 17-20. Additionally, the Examiner reads "the high speed search mode as the skipping mode" (Office Action, page 4, lines 10-11). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's analysis regarding the claimed tape speed controller for executing a high speed search mode.

In more detail, as explained above, Abecassis selects video content using a random access device. See, for example, the first line of the Abstract, col. 2, line 48, col. 3, line 2, col. 11, lines 22-24, col. 18, lines 33-35 and lines 52-54, col. 19, lines 13-17, line 22, lines 44-49, col. 23, lines 18-20, col. 28, lines 50-55, col. 32, lines 23-28, etc. Abecassis uses the random access memory to organize content selected from sequential and non-sequential segments. On the other hand, the present disclosure uses a tape speed controller to execute a high-speed search mode when a controller generates a first control signal for blocking a video/audio signal. A tape speed controller is much different from a device of Abecassis used to randomly access stored data.

Although Abecassis discloses the use of tape, for example, at col. 31, line 18, and col. 34, line 22, Abecassis only discloses using tape for providing material, and not for randomly accessing video content to construct video-on-demand content.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that Abecassis does not teach or suggest the claimed tape speed controller for executing a high-speed search mode when the controller generates the first control signal, and for executing the general playback mode when the controller generates the second control signal, as required by claim 1.

With respect to claim 2, Abecassis does not teach or suggest that the high speed search mode is executed by controlling a tape speed controller.

With respect to the rejection of claims 3 and 5 as being unpatentable over Abecassis in view of Yuen et al and further in view or Choi, the Examiner considers that it would have been obvious to have modified Abecassis by realizing Abecassis with a VISS system, as taught by Yuen, in order to facilitate the marking of the beginning and end of recorded signal. In addition, the Examiner asserts it would have been obvious to further modify Yuen by the technique of VISS mark signal by detecting the duty cycle variation of the VISS signal, as taught by Choi.

Applicant submits, however, that the VISS signal is incompatible with the device disclosed by Abecassis. In more detail, Abecassis addresses a random access memory according to a scheme compatible with a random access address method. On the other hand, a VISS system relates to a tape indexing system, which is incompatible with a random access memory addressing system.

10

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APP. NO. 09/440,639

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

Peter A. McKenna
Registration No. 38,551

WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 22, 2003

11